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"Encyclopedia of Space and Astronomy" Book Review

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Reference Reviews

Title: Encyclopedia of Space And Astronomy

Author: Angelo, Joseph A.

Publisher Name: Facts on File

Publisher Location: New York, NY

Publication Year: 2006

ISBN: 0-8160-5330-8

Price: \$82.50

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Dr. Angelo, author of *Encyclopedia of Space Exploration*, *The Dictionary of Space Technology*, and *Space and Astronomy Handbook*, has compiled a wide-reaching work on “the exciting relationship between modern astronomy and space technology”. In addition to over 3,000 entries there are 15 essays covering such topics as the future of moon bases, space travel hazards, space technology and national security, and SETI, and 5 appendices: further reading, exploring cyberspace, chronology of space and astronomy, planetary data, and how various celestial objects are named. Essays are placed in relationship to the a corresponding concept in the A-Z entries, for example the essay “Will it Rain on My Parade?”, about space technology and meteorologists, is on the same page as the “meteorology” entry. Black and white illustrations and diagrams are plentiful and clear and the cross-referencing between entries and indexing are helpful.

The audience for this book is undergraduate students interested in a possible career in space exploration and technology, advanced high school students, and interested amateurs. While there are not many reference works aiming for a combination of modern astronomical concepts and space technology there are many reference works covering space technology alone such as *Encyclopedia of space science & technology* (New York: Wiley, c2003), *The chronological encyclopedia of discoveries in space* (Phoenix, Ariz.: Oryx Press, 2000) and the works by Dr. Angelo mentioned above. If your collection has any of these titles, in addition to some general astronomy reference works, this work will seem redundant. But, due to the currency of this title and its low price it is a fine addition to both public and academic libraries needing a good one-volume space and astronomy reference title.